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22 December 1997

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda item 82
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE
STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 22 December 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 12 December 1997 from the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia addressed to you (A/52/733-S/1997/984, annex).

The letter unfortunately shows that the position of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on the Prevlaka issue has not evolved from that presented in the previous letter of the President of the Yugoslav Federal Government of 21 May 1997 (S/1997/394, annex). The issue of Prevlaka has once again been presented as a "territorial dispute". Furthermore, the letter accuses the Croatian Government of pursuing a policy of fait accompli aimed at incorporating the peninsula of Prevlaka into Croatia.

The latter insinuation is completely unfounded, in open disregard of international law, in particular of the principle uti possidetis, and stands in sharp contrast with the view of the whole international community. The fact that the Security Council has reaffirmed its commitment to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Croatia in previous resolutions dealing with Prevlaka, adopted under the agenda item "The situation in Croatia", confirms the reality that Prevlaka is an integral part of the Republic of Croatia.

The Republic of Croatia has shown an understanding for the security reasons of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in respect of the Bay of Boka Kotorska. These concerns have been formally recognized by my Government in the Agreement on Normalization of Relations between the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (A/51/351-S/1996/744, annex).

In the stated Agreement both countries accepted the fact that the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka (UNMOP) could not be renewed interminably and agreed to find a solution for this sole outstanding security issue in the Dubrovnik and Boka Kotorska regions, through bilateral negotiations. The Croatian Government strongly believes that a proper security arrangement consistent with international law and the security interests of the two States can be found, as soon as the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia begins to respect the basic principle of inviolability of international borders, which represents the cornerstone of the international legal and political system.

The Republic of Croatia is committed to the maintenance of international peace and security. It is for that reason that Croatia accepted UNMOP and later made several proposals in regard to a possible permanent security arrangement. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia so far has not responded to these proposals.

In this regard, the Croatian Government is encouraged by the indications that the Government of the Yugoslav Republic of Montenegro could in the near future be more open for cooperation, which may result in the opening of an international border crossing at Debeli Brijeg. Croatia believes that such a development would contribute significantly to confidence-building in the area.

The situation in the Dubrovnik region of Croatia and the Boka Kotorska region in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia remains stable and secure. In this context, the Croatian Government would like to commend the work of UNMOP, which has contributed to the achievement of these goals. However, the role of the international community should now be more focused on giving incentives for future negotiations on a permanent security arrangement than on maintaining, for both sides, an unacceptable status quo.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating the present letter as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 82, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ivan ŠIMONOVIĆ
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

UNITED NATIONS

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Security Council

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SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

MACROECONOMIC POLICY QUESTIONS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 18 December 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the concluding statement by the participants in the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia (CICA) held at the level of Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the CICA member States in Almaty on 3 December 1997.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 71, 81, 95, 97 and 98, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Akmaral Kh. ARYSTANBEKOVA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Kazakhstan
to the United Nations

ANNEX

[Original text in Russian and English]

Concluding statement by the participants in the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia (CICA) held at the level of Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the CICA member States in Almaty on 3 December 1997

The member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building measures in Asia (CICA),

Recognizing the importance of developing the CICA initiative,

Reaffirming their commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Basing their position on the interest of all States of the region in ensuring lasting, comprehensive and just peace, security and stability as a paramount condition for their forward advancement on the path of economic, social and cultural progress and the strengthening of their statehood in accordance with the principles of democracy and the supremacy of law,

Reaffirming their commitment to achieving general and complete disarmament under mutually-agreed and effective control,

Supporting international efforts to maintain peace, security and stability and expressing the desire to develop mechanisms to promote confidence-building and cooperation in Asia,

Reaffirming that the level of their economic development, the structure and mutual complementarity of their economies, and the nature of the socio-economic problems confronting them require effective international interaction on the part of the States of the region and are creating broad prospects for their all-round trade and economic cooperation on a mutually-advantageous basis in the interests of each State as well as in their common interests,

Bearing in mind the importance of protecting the environment for the sustainable economic development of all States in Asia without exception, and the fact that, in order to exploit rich natural resources without harming the environment, the States of the region must coordinate efforts in the field of environmental protection,

Convinced that the protection and development of the humanitarian heritage of the States of Asia significantly contribute to ensuring security on the continent,

Declare the following:

The member States will develop a political dialogue on the questions of regional peace, stability, security and cooperation.

The member States will, without infringing the rights of all States to conclude disarmament and arms-control agreements as appropriate, discuss questions relating to disarmament and non-proliferation with a view to helping to achieve the ultimate goal of the complete elimination of weapons of mass destruction, arms control, security, confidence-building and the peaceful and equitable settlement of disputes.

The member States will promote, as necessary, active cooperation in the economic field and, ultimately, socio-economic progress, including enhancing the welfare of people, industrial growth, the development of technology, expanding the volume of international trade, drawing up and implementing international projects, cooperation in frontier zones, developing a communication and power-system infrastructure and establishing joint economic and financial institutes.

The member States will develop measures to assist in a comprehensive manner, finance, initiate and publicize ecological programmes and environmental-protection projects.

The member States will develop humanitarian cooperation based on respect for the individuality and uniqueness of each of the nations of Asia and an understanding of the characteristics of each State in the development of generally recognized norms in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The member States will continue to reach agreement on the provisions of the declaration of principles concerning relations among CICA member States.

Positively assessing the holding of CICA meetings at the level of Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs and the Special Working Group, the member States recognize the importance of developing organized forms of interaction within the CICA framework.

In order to adopt decisions on the aforementioned issues and other questions, the member States intend to convene in Almaty, possibly during 1998 or 1999, a Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the CICA member States. They will carry out the necessary preparatory work for this purpose.

The member States have authorized the Kazakh side to transmit this concluding statement to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for circulation among the States Members of the United Nations as an official CICA document.

ADDENDUM

List of member States and observers of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building in Asia

Member States

Islamic State of Afghanistan
Azerbaijani Republic
People's Republic of China
Arab Republic of Egypt
Republic of India
Islamic Republic of Iran
State of Israel
Republic of Kazakhstan
Kyrgyz Republic
Mongolia
Islamic Republic of Pakistan
Palestine
Russian Federation
Republic of Tajikistan
Republic of Turkey
Republic of Uzbekistan

Observers

Australia
Republic of Indonesia
Japan
Republic of Korea
League of Arab States
Lebanese Republic
Ukraine
United States of America
Socialist Republic of Vietnam
Kingdom of Thailand
Malaysia

International organizations

United Nations
Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
Inter-State Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Uzbekistan

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Fifty-second session
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SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR RESTORED DEMOCRACIES

MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Letter dated 18 December 1997 from the Permanent Representatives of Georgia and Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Declaration on the Development of Cooperation between Georgia and Turkmenistan, signed by the President of Georgia, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze and the President of Turkmenistan, Mr. Saparmurat Nyazov, on 5 December 1997, during President Shevardnadze's official visit to Ashgabat.

May we ask your kind assistance in circulating the text of the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 38, 81 and 97.

(Signed) Aksoltan T. ATAEVA
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of
Turkmenistan to the United Nations

(Signed) Peter CHKHEIDZE
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of
Georgia to the United Nations

ANNEX

[Original: Russian]

Declaration on the development of cooperation between Georgia and Turkmenistan

Georgia and Turkmenistan, hereinafter referred to as the Parties, guided by the provisions of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation of 17 August 1993, which has served as a basis for the further enhancement of the traditionally close relations between Georgia and Turkmenistan,

Aware of the imperatives of the age, which dictate the necessity of developing and intensifying cooperation between the two States,

Striving to make the fullest possible use of the material and intellectual potential of the two countries and to develop approaches and create effective mechanisms for the practical implementation of specific activities for the development and intensification of cooperation between our countries,

Confirming their adherence to the universally accepted principles and norms of international law, the purposes and principles of the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and the other basic documents of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE),

Declare that:

(1) The Parties are convinced that the development and enhancement of relations on the basis of the principles of equality, independence and respect for each other's sovereign rights opens up new possibilities for achieving a higher level of mutually advantageous cooperation;

(2) The Parties will constantly consult one another on current international issues and support each other in every way in international and regional organizations;

(3) The Parties consider that consistent respect for the principles contained in the basic documents of the United Nations, OSCE and other international and regional organizations is an extremely important factor in the strengthening of confidence and security and in guaranteeing human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(4) The Parties are convinced that a guarantee of international peace and security is afforded by respect for the principles of state sovereignty, quality of rights, territorial integrity, inviolability of borders, non-interference in each other's internal affairs and peaceful settlements of disputes, as well as for the other universally accepted norms of international law;

(5) The Parties strongly condemn acts of aggression, separatism, and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, which threaten the territorial

integrity and security of States, destabilize and undermine the foundations of civil society and are directed against human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(6) Turkmenistan, on the basis of its policy of permanent neutrality, takes an understanding attitude towards the steps being taken by Georgia to maintain the unity of the State as a vital condition for the strengthening of an atmosphere of peace and security in the region;

(7) The Parties confirm that they regard the Commonwealth of Independent States as an acceptable consultative mechanism for the maintenance and development of links between the participating countries, and will promote its strengthening on the basis of the universally accepted principles of international law and in accordance with their legislation and national interests;

(8) The Parties will do everything possible to promote the development of trade and economic cooperation between the countries of the Black Sea and Caspian basins and between the regional organizations of Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the Economic Cooperation Organization;

(9) The Parties note the need for fuller and more intensive utilization of the considerable potential for bilateral trade and economic cooperation based on the principles of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the World Trade Organization, and will promote in every way the renewal of the traditional economic links on new terms;

(10) The Parties expressed their readiness to cooperate and their consent to the development of a multi-modal transport and pipeline infrastructure and to the construction of export pipelines to transport hydrocarbon raw materials to international markets, including the establishment and functioning of the Transport Corridor: Europe-Caucasus-Asia (TRACECA) programme, a project of global significance and a vital factor in the accelerated all-round development of the Trans Caucasus and Central Asian regions;

(11) In accordance with the provisions of bilateral treaties, and also on the basis of their long-term national interests, the Parties intend to promote in every way cooperation in various spheres of the economy, science and culture;

(12) In accordance with the traditionally friendly relations between their two peoples and on the basis of the need to maintain and develop them, the Parties will promote the establishment of optimum working and living conditions for Georgians resident in Turkmenistan and Turkmens resident in Georgia, and also to ensure their constitutional rights;

(13) The Parties will promote the development of interparliamentary links, and cooperation, and exchange of experience both in the sphere of legislative activity and in relation to the establishment and formation of democratic institutions;

(14) The Parties will regularly exchange experience and information on socio-economic development and the course of the reforms being conducted in their countries in various spheres.

DONE at Ashgabat on 5 December 1997 in the Georgian, Turkmen and Russian languages, all three texts being equally authentic.

(Signed) Eduard SHEVARDNADZE
President of Georgia

(Signed) Saparmurat NIYAZOV
President of Turkmenistan

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SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR RESTORED DEMOCRACIES

MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Letter dated 18 December 1997 from the Permanent Representatives of Georgia and Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Declaration of the Development of Cooperation between Romania and Georgia, signed by the President of Georgia, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze and the President of Romania, Mr. Emil Constantinescu, on 11 December 1997, during President Shevardnadze's official visit to Bucharest.

May we ask your kind assistance in circulating the text of the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 38, 81 and 97.

(Signed) Ion GORITA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Romania
to the United Nations

(Signed) Peter CHKHEIDZE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Georgia
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Declaration on the Development of Cooperation between Georgia and Romania, signed on 11 December 1997

Georgia and Romania, hereinafter referred to as the "Parties",

Striving to extend all-round partnership between the two States, proceeding from the fundamental principles of the Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation signed on 26 March 1996,

Expressing their readiness to ensure the historical affinity and traditional friendly relations between the two nations,

Realizing the great importance of mutual support and cooperation in strengthening the State independence and sovereignty of Georgia and Romania,

Recognizing the significance of cooperation between Georgia and Romania in providing for a new system of security and stability in Europe,

Declare the following:

1. The Parties are convinced that cooperation, based on the principles of equality, independence, mutual assistance, mutually beneficial cooperation and respect for each other's sovereignty, affords the States ample opportunities to perform the tasks for attaining a qualitatively new level of cooperation in partnership.

2. The Parties consider that joint coordinated efforts should be exerted with a view to establishing bilateral and multilateral relations, based on internationally recognized principles and standards of international law in the zone of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

3. The Parties consider the restoration and protection of the territorial integrity of the States to be the imperative of strengthening peace, stability and security at the subregional and regional levels.

4. The Parties shall further support each other in the implementation of their basic foreign policy priorities to ensure their integration into political and economic structures in Europe.

5. The Parties attach great importance to the necessity of creating an atmosphere of trust and security, and of avoiding new lines of demarcation on the continent; the Parties consider it imperative to extend the cooperation within the programme of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which Partnership For Peace has already made a significant contribution to the consolidation of regional security and stability.

6. The Parties shall support the conclusion of an agreement on cooperation in different spheres, including the military and military-technical spheres.

Georgia requests Romania to render assistance in the creation, development and training of specialized units for border protection.

7. In support of the transition process of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation alliance into a regional economic organization, the Parties intend to exert every effort with a view to deepening and expanding trade and economic cooperation within the framework of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis.

8. The Parties fully support the idea of cooperation between the countries of the Baltic and the Black Seas and express their readiness to facilitate the implementation thereof in every possible way, with the purpose of establishing stronger political and economic ties.

9. Expressing their satisfaction with the development of bilateral trade and economic cooperation, the Parties consider it necessary to carry out measures to ensure the intensification of these processes.

10. The parties place special emphasis upon the stimulation of efforts to achieve the full-scale operation of the Euro-Asian transportation corridor, and regard this global-scale project as an imperative in the promotion of the overall development of the two States.

The implementation of the Euro-Asian corridor idea by means of the European transport systems as well as the TRASECA project will contribute to full-scale economic integration with the Euro-Asian land area.

The Parties attach the greatest importance to the development of the Euro-Asian transportation corridor and the Pan-European transportation area, and consider it expedient to take part in the activities of existing economic and transport structures in the Denube region.

The Parties recognize the necessity of the optimal utilization of the favourable transit opportunities of both States in terms of the transport of energy resources.

The Parties undertake to hold the regular bilateral and multilateral consultations on diverse issues with a view towards the activation of this overwhelming project.

11. The Parties place special emphasis upon the implementation of the Constanza-Poti and Constanza-Batumi train/ferry project, which will be an important part of the long-term programme of the Euro-Asian transportation corridor.

12. The Parties attach great importance to the prevention of terrorism and organized crime, which jeopardize their national interests.

13. The Parties shall promote interparliamentary links and experience-sharing in the spheres of legislative activities and operations and the formation of democratic institutions.

14. The Parties shall ensure regular experience- and information-sharing on the reforms carried out by the two countries in various spheres of activity.

DONE at Bucharest on 11 December 1997 in the Romanian and Georgian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

The President of Georgia:

(Signed) Eduard SHEVARDNADZE

The President of Romania:

(Signed) Emil CONSTANTINESCU

UNITED NATIONS **A**

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SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR RESTORED DEMOCRACIES

MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Letter dated 19 December 1997 from the Permanent Representatives of Bulgaria and Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Declaration on the Development of Cooperation between the Republic of Bulgaria and Georgia, signed by the President of Georgia, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze and the President of the Republic of Bulgaria, Mr. Peter Stoyanov, on 15 December 1997, during President Shevardnadze's official visit to Sofia.

May we ask your kind assistance in circulating the text of the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 38, 81 and 97.

(Signed) Philip DIMITROV
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Bulgaria
to the United Nations

(Signed) Peter CHKHEIDZE
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of
Georgia to the United Nations

ANNEX

[Original: Russian]

Declaration on the development of relations between Georgia and Bulgaria signed on 15 December 1997

Georgia and Bulgaria, hereinafter referred to as "the Parties",

Guided by the desire to develop a comprehensive partnership between the two States based on the fundamental principles of the Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation between Georgia and Bulgaria signed on 19 January 1995,

Expressing their readiness to strengthen further the historical ties and traditional friendly relations between the two nations,

Recognizing the need to develop relations between the two States on the basis of the principles of democracy, freedom, solidarity and respect for human rights,

Aiming to strengthen peace and security in Europe and throughout the world,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the concluding documents of the Budapest and Lisbon Summits and other documents of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE),

Make the following declaration:

1. The Parties are convinced that cooperation based on the principles of equality, independence, mutual assistance, mutual benefit and respect for each other's sovereignty will provide the States with broad possibilities for the solution of the problems which they face in achieving a qualitatively new level of partnership.

2. The Parties have agreed to open a Bulgarian embassy in Tbilisi, a Georgian embassy in Sofia, a Bulgarian Consulate-General in Poti and a Georgian Consulate-General in Burgas.

3. The Parties declare their readiness to intensify regular consultations between the foreign policy departments of the two countries on issues of bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation.

The Parties will encourage active working contacts within the framework of the United Nations, OSCE and other international organizations, exchanging information and opinions on issues of mutual interest.

4. Bulgaria believes that the restoration of the territorial integrity of Georgia is an indispensable condition for strengthening peace, stability and security in the Caucasus and fully supports the efforts of Georgia to settle this vitally important and nationally significant issue.

5. The Parties will continue to support each other in terms of integration into European political and economic structures with a view to achieving their foreign policy objectives. Bulgaria supports Georgia's desire to become a full member of the Council of Europe and the World Trade Organization.

6. The Parties attach exceptional importance to strengthening the climate of trust and security in Europe. Both Parties commend cooperation between the States within the framework of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council.

Georgia respects the sovereign right of each country to choose the means of ensuring its national security, including entry into military and political alliances.

In this regard, the Parties stress the need for cooperation on international security issues, including the military and technical field. Georgia requests Bulgarian assistance in establishing, developing and training subunits specializing in border protection.

7. The Parties have agreed to cooperate actively in combating illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, the smuggling of weapons and ammunition and of explosive, toxic and radioactive materials, organized crime, illegal migration and terrorism.

8. The Parties confirm their interest in increasing the effectiveness of Black Sea economic cooperation by carrying out specific projects and expanding multilateral trade and economic cooperation on the basis of the transformation of the Black Sea economic cooperation alliance into a regional economic organization.

9. The Parties subscribe to the idea of cooperation between the Baltic and Black Sea countries and express their readiness for such cooperation with a view to establishing closer ties between the two European regions.

10. The Parties express their satisfaction at the pace of development of bilateral trade and economic cooperation, and consider it necessary to undertake measures to bring about an intensification of these processes.

11. The Parties recognize that the implementation of the Memorandum of the Burgas meeting of Ministers of Transport by putting into effect the idea of a link with the European transport systems and the Transport Corridor: Europe-Caucasus-Asia (TRACECA) programme will contribute to the process of full-scale economic integration into the Eurasian area.

The Parties consider the "Corridor VIII-Asia" transcontinental link to be a project of global significance, and attach particular importance to the intensification of efforts to carry out measures to implement this project.

The Parties attach special importance to the further development of a Eurasian transport link and a pan-European transport system, and consider it advisable for Georgia to be associated with the work of the existing economic and transport institutions in the Danube region and south-east Europe.

The Parties recognize the need for optimal utilization of their favourable transit possibilities for the transportation of energy resources.

12. The Parties express satisfaction with the operation of the car ferries linking the Georgian maritime ports of Poti and Batumi with the Bulgarian maritime ports of Burgas and Varna as a good example of the practical implementation of the "Corridor VIII-Asia" transcontinental link. They will work actively to create a multilateral transport link by opening a train ferry between Poti and Batumi (Georgia), Varna (Bulgaria) and other Black Sea ports.

13. The Parties will hold regular bilateral and multilateral consultations on questions relating to the implementation of these projects.

14. The Parties fully support the idea of holding a high-level conference of the countries participating in TRACECA and will actively participate in its work.

15. The Parties encourage interparliamentary ties, and also the exchange of experience in the areas of legislative activity and the operation and establishment of democratic institutions.

DONE at Sofia on 15 December 1997, in duplicate in the Georgian and Bulgarian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

The President of Georgia:

(Signed) Eduard SHEVARDNADZE

The President of the Republic of Bulgaria:

(Signed) Petar STOYANOV